



Map MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

For Teac

Neighborhood Map

Oblique Birds'-Eye View

For the complete maps with media resources, visit:
<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/maps/neighborhood-map/>

Students in early elementary commonly draw their view of the world using the perspective seen in this map. Students can use maps with this perspective to begin to learn spatial concepts such as identity, location, and symbols. They should be given opportunities to practice with maps of familiar places, like neighborhood. At this age, symbols should represent an object or place in the real world and be a recognizable icon to students. Abstract, unrelated symbols are not understood well at this age. Use the text and prompts below to explore the provided neighborhood map with students.

Try This!

A neighborhood is a section of a town or city. Look at this map of a neighborhood. It shows residential and business areas and some of the main streets and buildings in the neighborhood.

Symbols on a map are drawings that stand for real things. This map doesn't have a key. How can you tell what the drawings mean?

Prompts:

- Find the grocery store. Where is it located?
- What street has no houses on it?
- The school is at the corner of two streets. What streets are they?
- Find the pet store. Between what types of buildings is it located?
- This neighborhood has a tall apartment building. Find it on the map.

FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

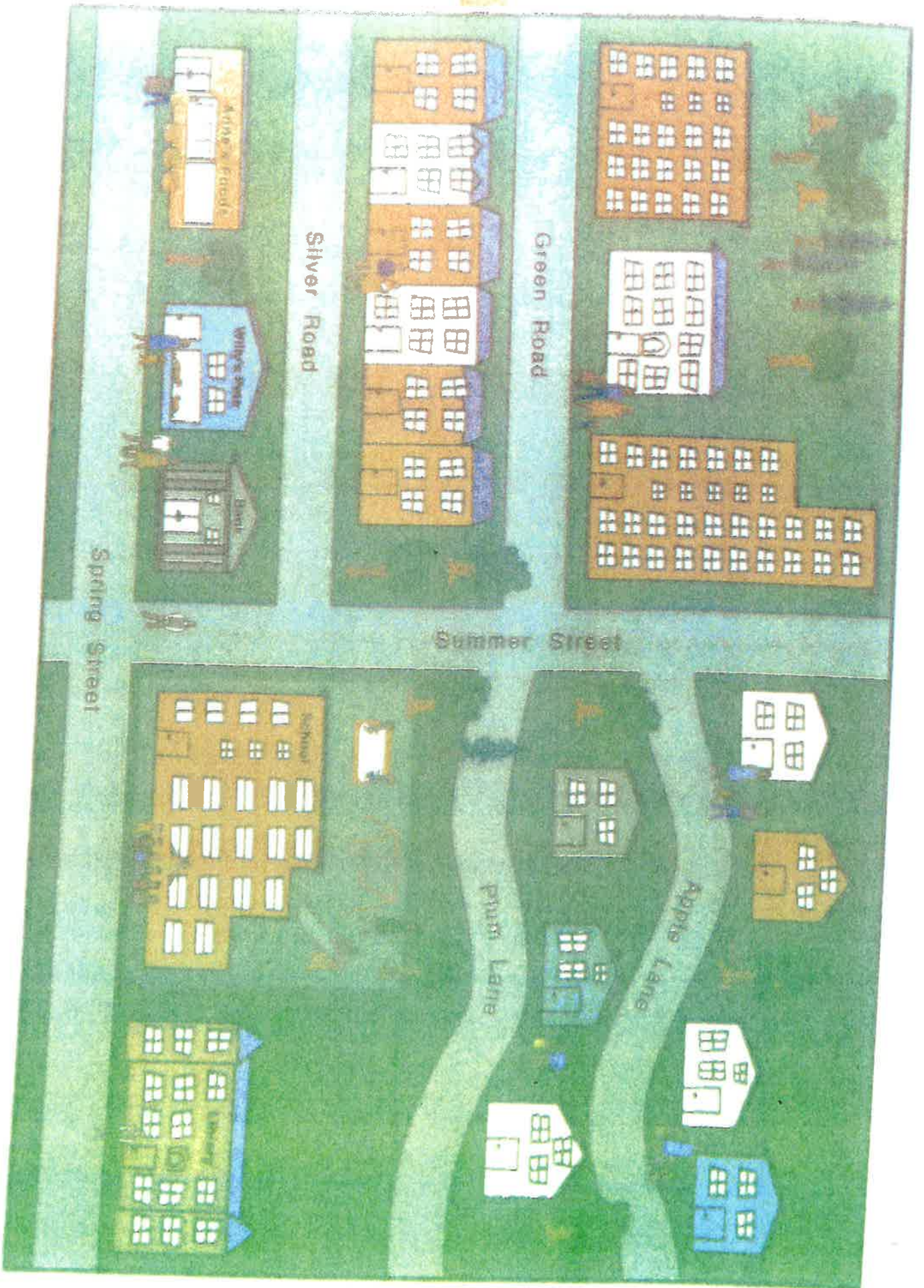
Books

- Sobel, David. *Mapmaking With Children: Sense of Place Education for the Elementary Years*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1998.



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Neighborhood Map



Hopeville Map Questions

Grades 3-8

Time: 30 Minutes or more

This activity will help students with directions and reading maps. After practicing together through the first nine questions, challenge students with the remaining questions. Try pairing students up or in small groups to compete against each other.

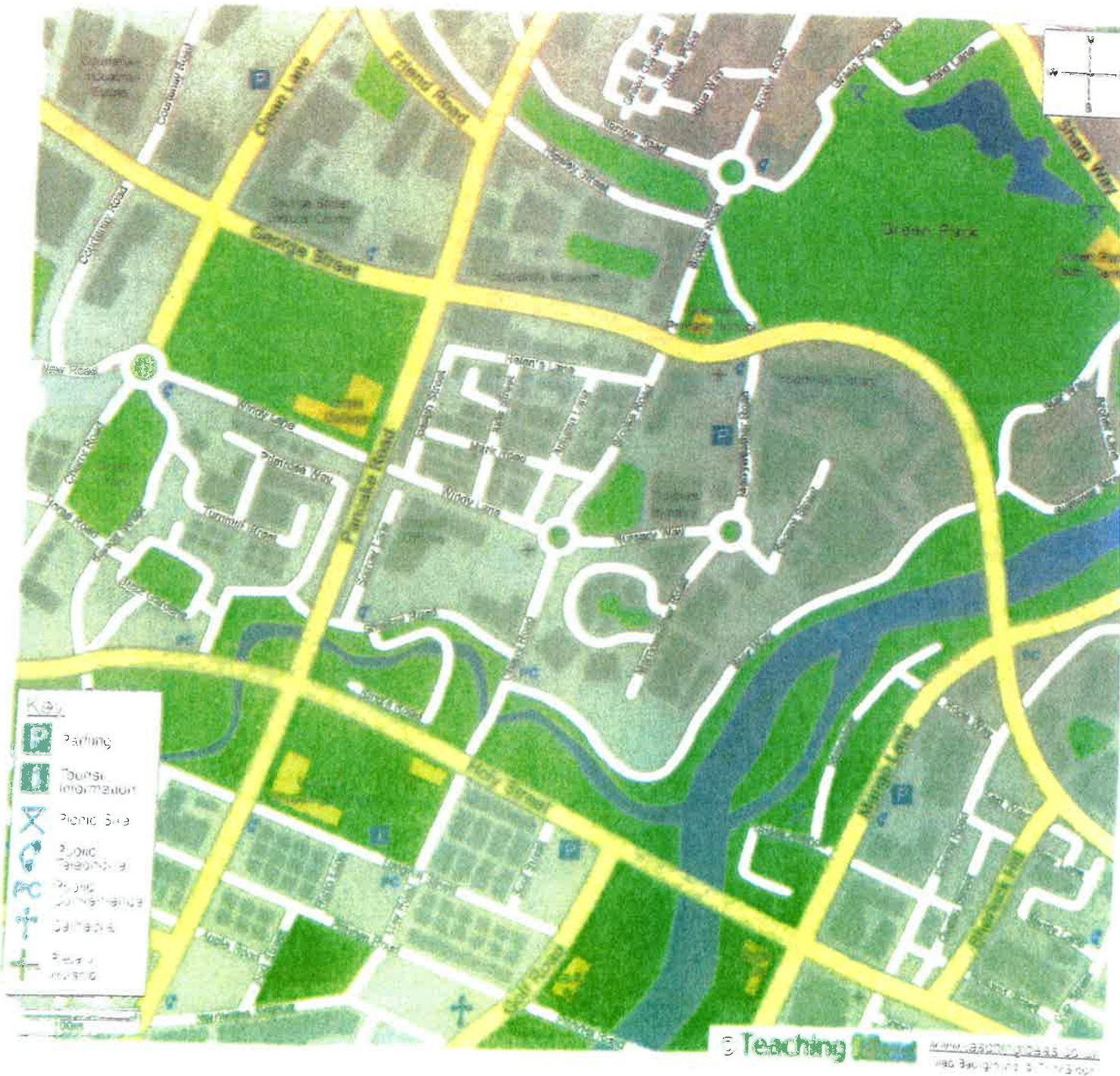
1. What direction is Hopeville Library from the Angel Hotel?
2. How many parking areas are in Hopeville?
3. Approximately how far would you have to walk from Granville Primary School to Hope College?
4. Peter is outside the Council Offices in Sorrow Lane. What is his quickest route to the Hopeville Library?
5. Mark is at the Longhill Shopping Centre. What direction is the Tiddlers Nursery from him?
6. Where is the tourist information centre in Hopeville?
7. Sally is at the picnic site near to Green Park Road. What direction should she go if she wants to go to Hope College?
8. What is the shortest route from Hopeville Museum to the cathedral?
9. Dave has lost his cell phone. How many public phones are there for him to use in Hopeville?

Challenge Questions:

1. I am in Nursery Way facing west. If I go straight ahead at the roundabout, which road will I be on?
2. How many places of worship are there in Hopeville, including the cathedral?
3. Kate is in Cherry Park. What route should she take to get to the Council Offices?
4. What direction is the Green Park Visitor Centre from the parking area on Holy Street?
5. Approximately how far is Cherry Park from the Tiddlers Nursery?
6. Somebody stops you on Brooke Road asking how to get to Green Park Visitor Centre. What would you tell them?
7. The public telephone on Mango Lane is broken. What is the route to the closest public telephone?
8. Mark is on Joseph Street facing south. He turns right and then right at the next roundabout. Where is he now?
9. What route should Chris take to go from the Hopeville Library to the Angel Hotel?
10. Sally lives in Green Gardens. Approximately, how far is her house from the Longhill Shopping Centre?

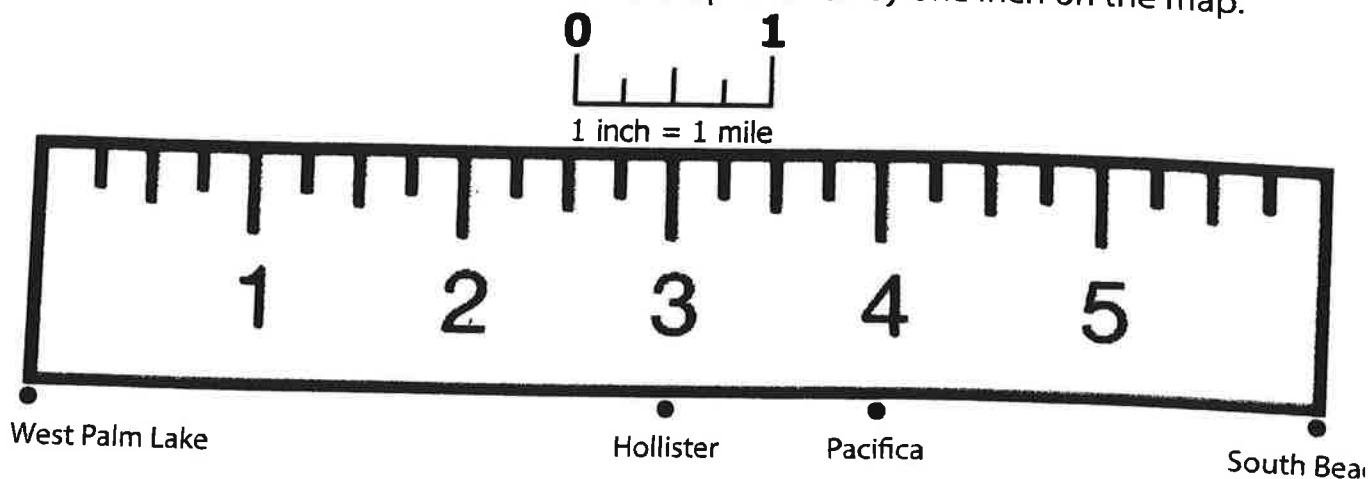
11. Derek is in the Mango Lange Car Park. He wants to go to the Golf Road Surgery. Which roads should he walk along to get there?
12. How many roundabouts are shown on this map of Hopeville?
13. Approximately how long is Windy Lane?
14. Steve is on Summer Street and he wants to go to the Leisure Centre. However, there is an accident on George Street outside the Primary School. What route should he take?
15. What direction is the Clean Lange parking area from Tiddlers Nursery?
16. What can be found on the corner of Cherry Road and Star Way?
17. Sam is at the Longhill Shopping Centre. Where is the nearest picnic area? What route will take him there?
18. What direction is the cathedral from Hopeville Museum?
19. What directions should the tourist information office give to people who want to go to Hopeville Museum?
20. Approximately how long is Merryweather Road?
21. Kerry is outside the public telephone on Merryweather Road. She goes south, turns right and then turns left. What road is she on now?
22. Paul has taken a wrong turn and is at the end of Regent Street. What directions should he take to the George Street Leisure Centre?
23. There are roadworks along Windy Lane. How can Matthew get from Jude Street to Cherry Park?
24. Kevin has to walk from Cherry Park to Hopeville Library and back. How far is his journey approximately?

Hopeville



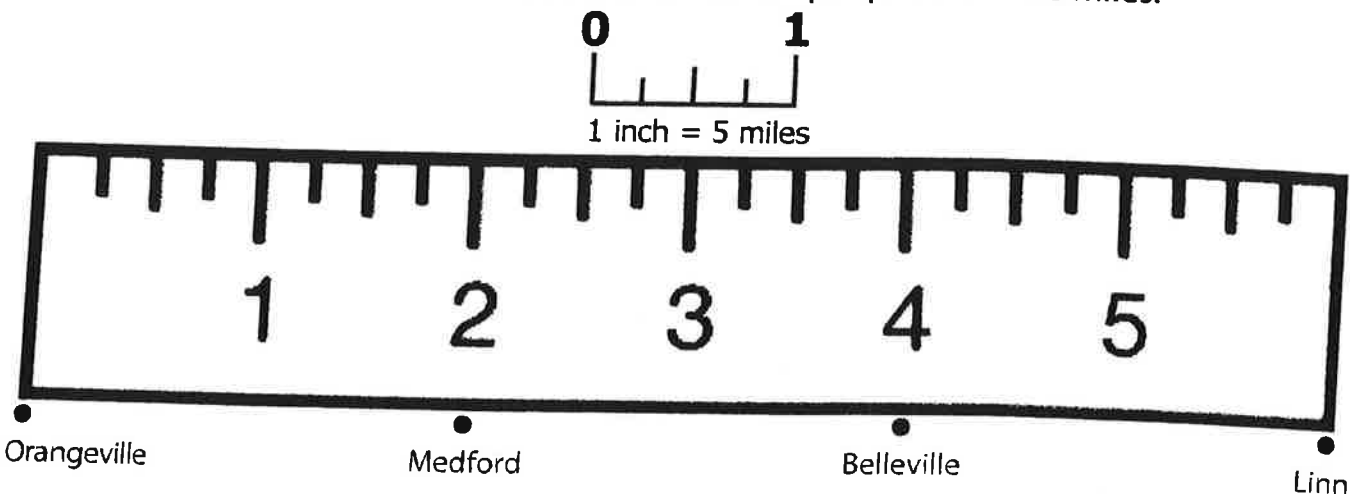
Using a Map Scale

Maps use a scale to show sizes and distances in a way that people can understand. A scale compares actual distance on the ground to distance on the map. On the scale below, one actual mile is represented by one inch on the map.



1. How many miles is it between West Palm Lake and South Beach?
2. How many miles is it between Hollister and South Beach?
3. How many miles is it between Pacifica and West Palm Lake?

On this scale, one inch on the map represents five miles.



4. How many miles is it between Medford and Belleville?
5. How many miles is it between Orangeville and Linn?
6. How many miles is it between Belleville and Orangeville?

Name: _____

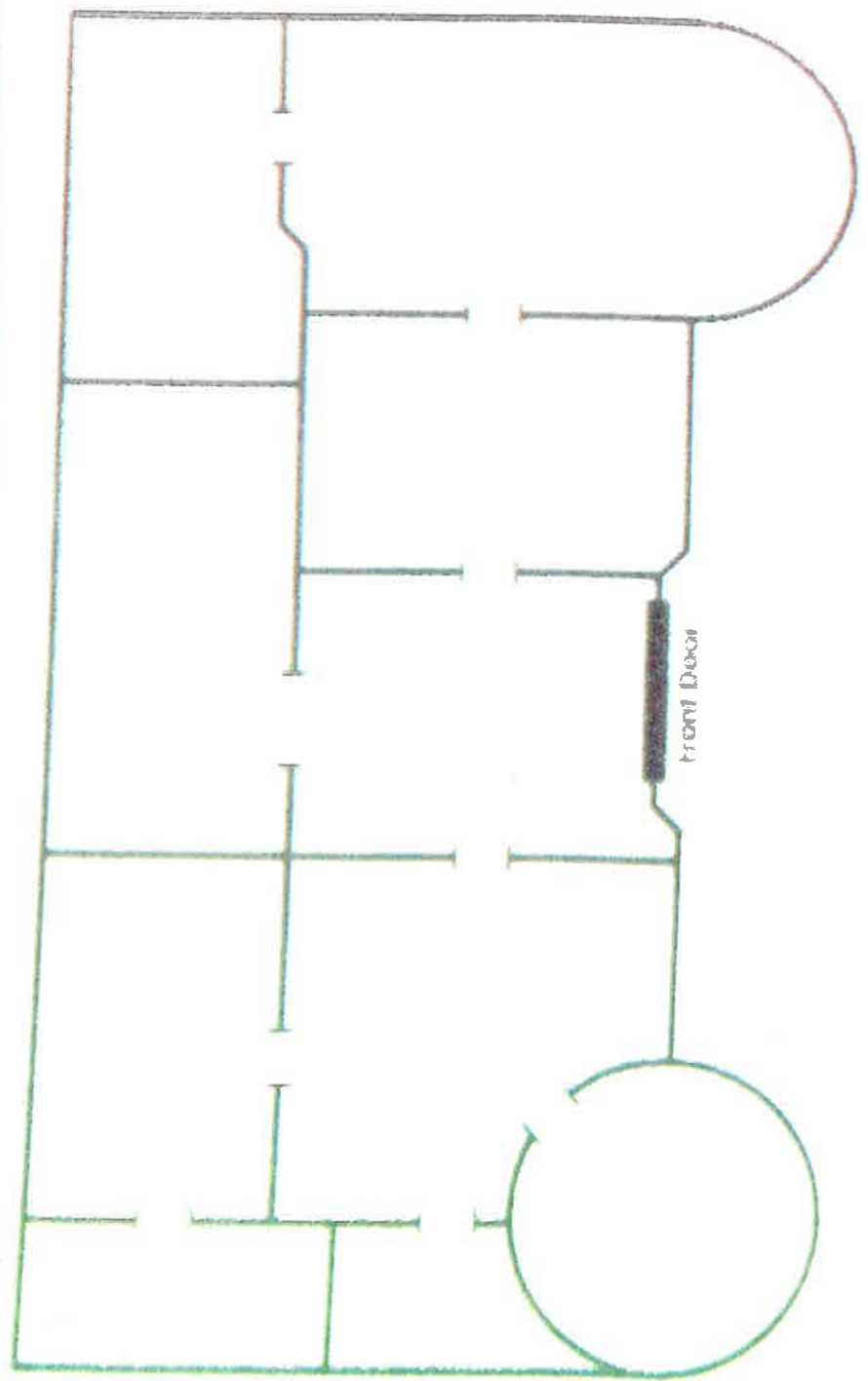
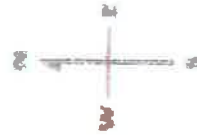
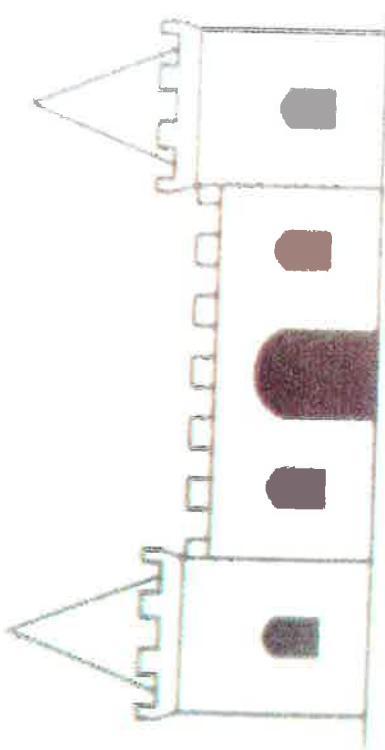
Royal Castle Floor Plan

Write your name at the top of the Royal Castle Floor Plan map and follow the directions below.

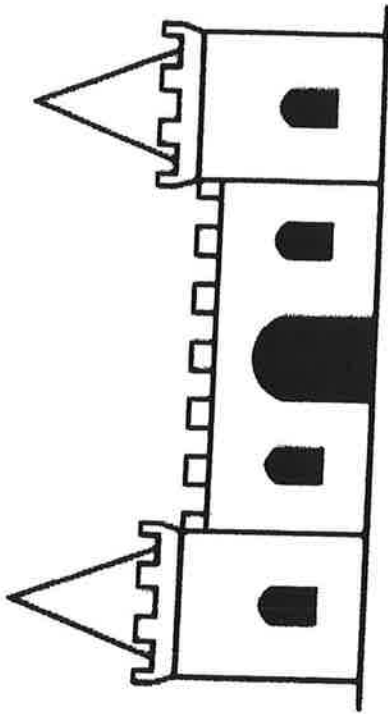
1. When you enter the castle through the front door, you are in the living room. Label this room LIVING ROOM and draw a sofa in it.
2. As you walk to the east from the living room, you enter the royal TV room. Label this room TV ROOM and draw a television in it.
3. The largest room in the castle is the Queen's bedroom. Label this room QUEEN'S BEDROOM and draw a bed in it.
4. Directly north of the Queen's bedroom is the queen's closet. Label this room QUEEN'S CLOSET and draw a dress in it.
5. Directly west of the Queen's closet is the library. Label this room LIBRARY and draw a book in it.
6. The smallest room in the castle is the bathroom. Label this room BATHROOM and draw a bathtub in it.
7. Directly east of the bathroom is the kitchen. Label this room KITCHEN and draw a stove and refrigerator.
8. The dining room is shaped like a circle. Label this room DINING ROOM and draw a table in it.
9. If you walk north from the kitchen, you enter the King's bedroom. Label this room KING'S BEDROOM and draw a bed in it.
10. If you're in the King's bedroom and look to the west, you'll see the King's closet. Label this room KING'S CLOSET and draw a shirt in it.
11. Outside the castle, just south of the front door, is a sidewalk. Draw the sidewalk leading up to the front door.
12. The King and Queen decide to build a secret room in their castle. They will hide their jewels in this room. It will be a small room that is directly east of the queen's bedroom. Draw the secret room and label it SECRET ROOM. Draw a crown in this room.



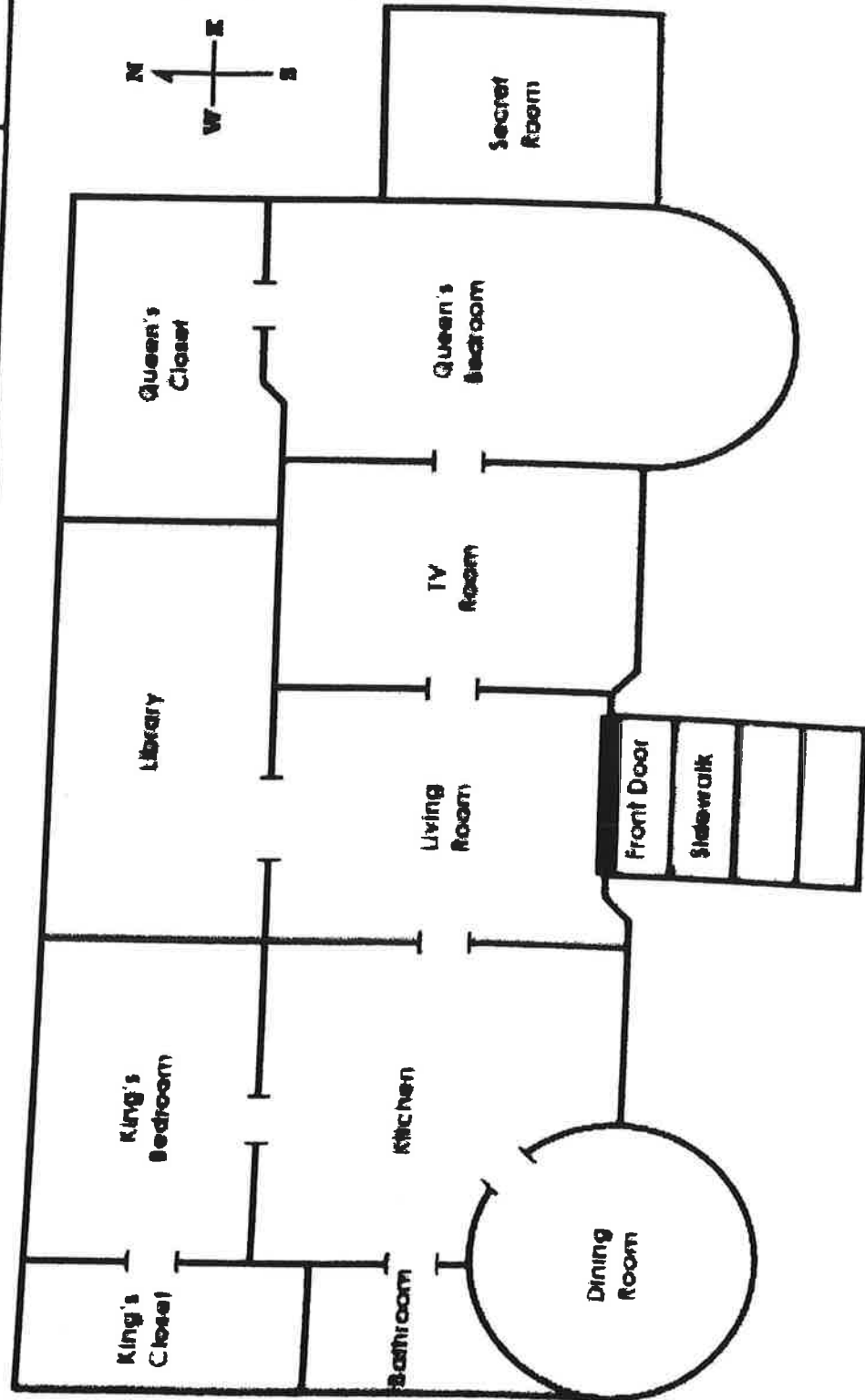
Royal Castle Floor Plan



Royal Castle Floor Plan

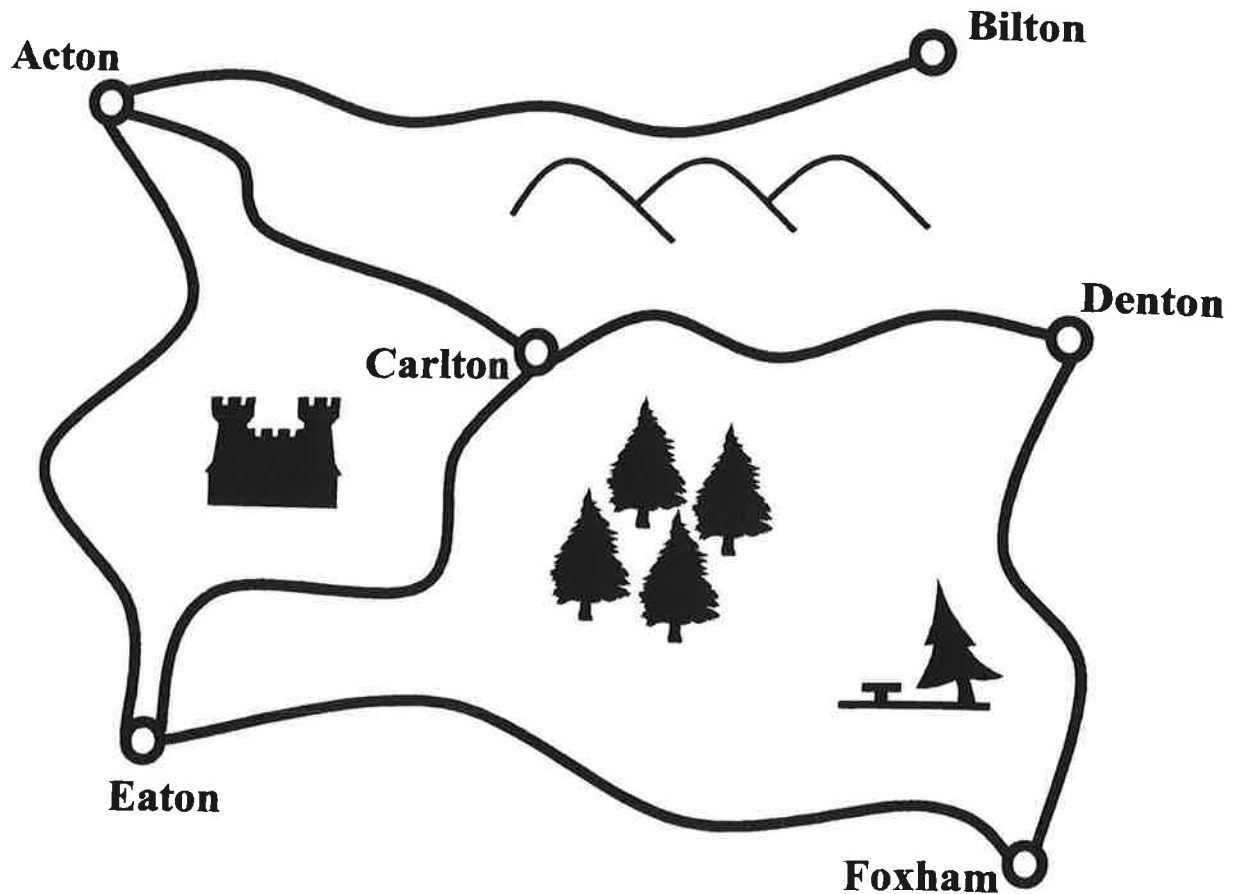


ANSWER KEY



HOW FAR?

Scale: 1cm = 1km

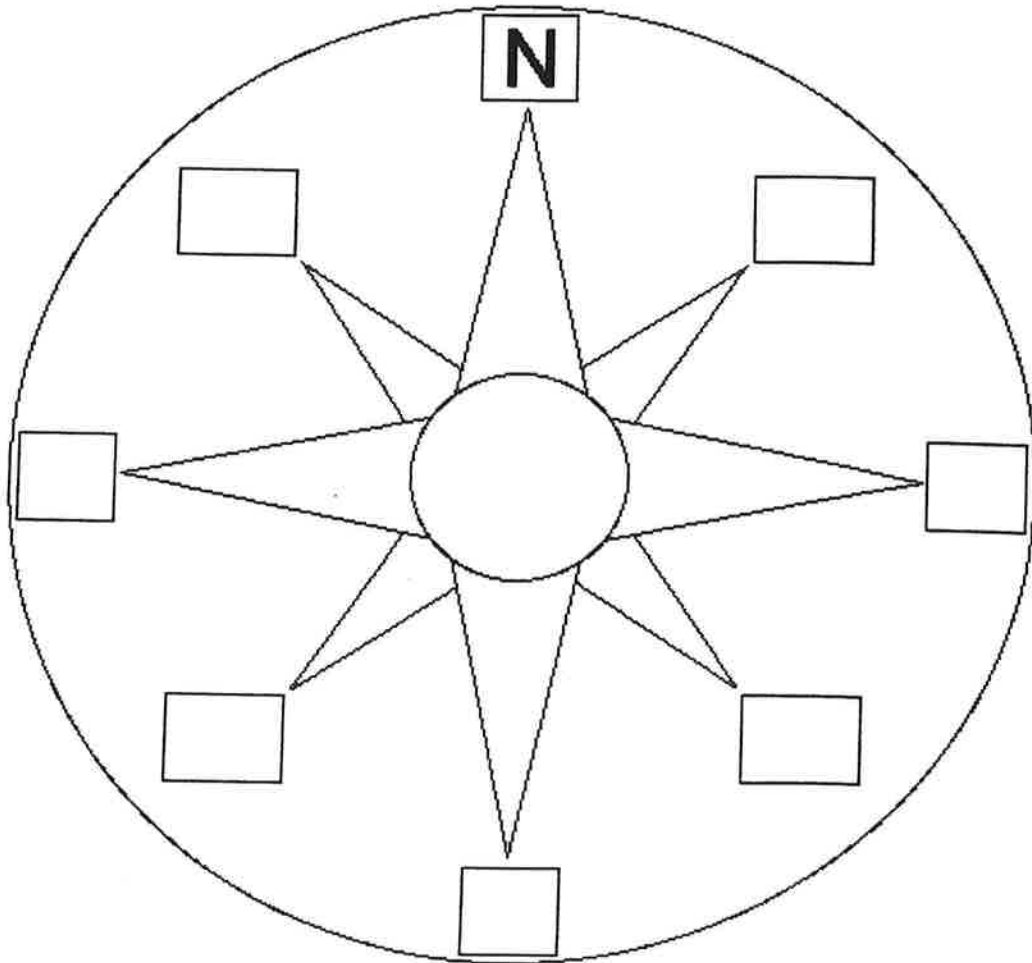


1. How far is it from Acton to Bilton? _____
2. What is the distance between Denton and Foxham? _____
3. How far is it from Eaton to Bilton? _____
4. What is the distance between Eaton and Foxham? _____
5. Which is the shortest distance between Carlton and Foxham?

6. What is the difference between the distance from Carlton to Denton, and the distance from Acton to Eaton?

Compass Rose

A **compass rose** is a design on a map that shows directions. It shows north, south, east, west, northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest.



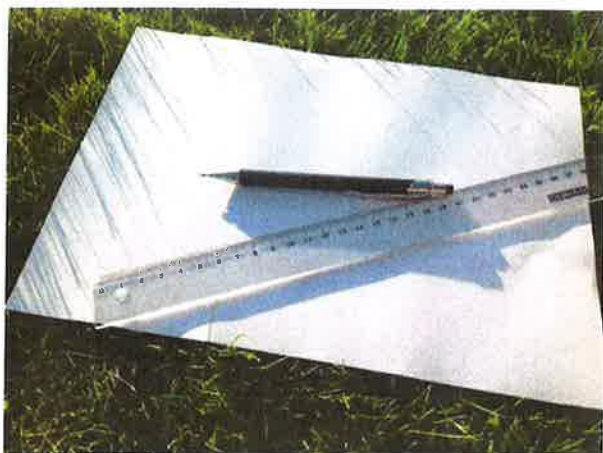
On the compass rose above, only north is filled in.

Fill in the rest of the directions on the compass rose, using the standard abbreviations:

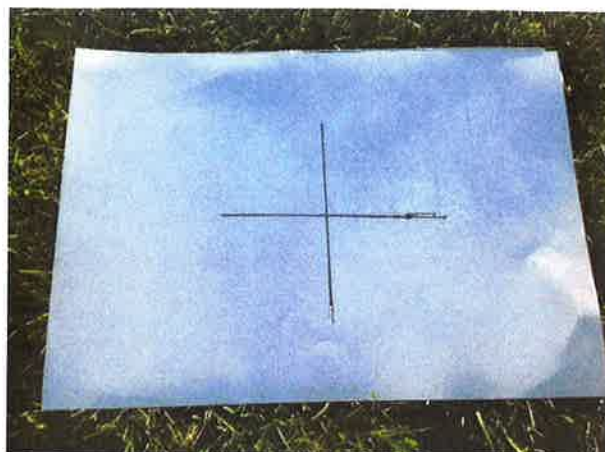
N=North, S=South, E=East, W=West, NE=Northeast, NW=Northwest, SE=Southeast, SW=Southwest.

HINTS: When north is at the top of the compass rose (as it often is), south is at the bottom, east is on the right, and west is on the left. Northeast is between north and east, northwest is between north and west, southeast is between south and east, and southwest is between south and west.

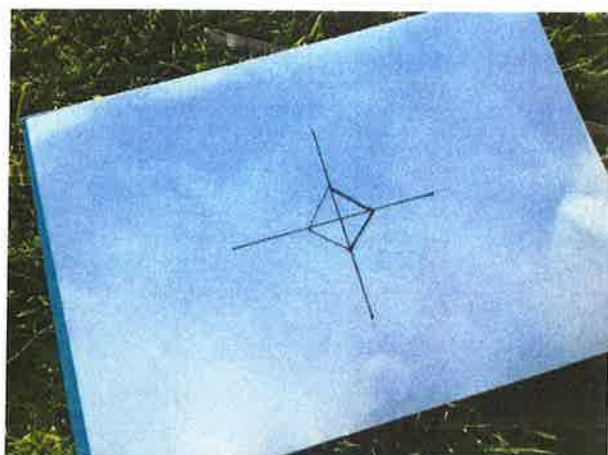
How to Draw a Beautiful Compass Rose



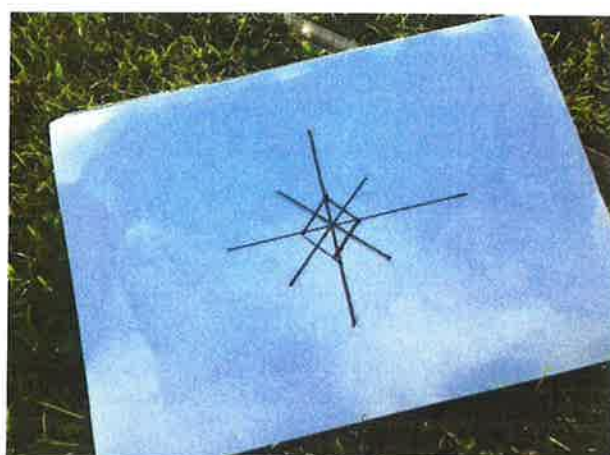
1. Supplies: Paper, eraser, color pencils, pencil, ruler, black pen



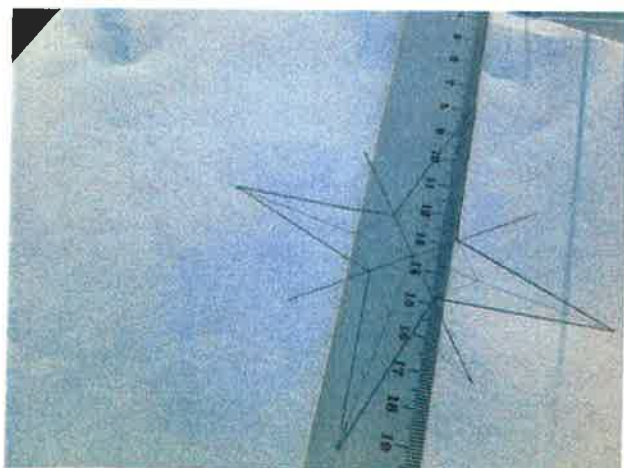
2. Draw a cross in the middle of the paper, use a ruler to make the lines straight and to measure the cross correctly. Each line is 6 centimeters from the middle.



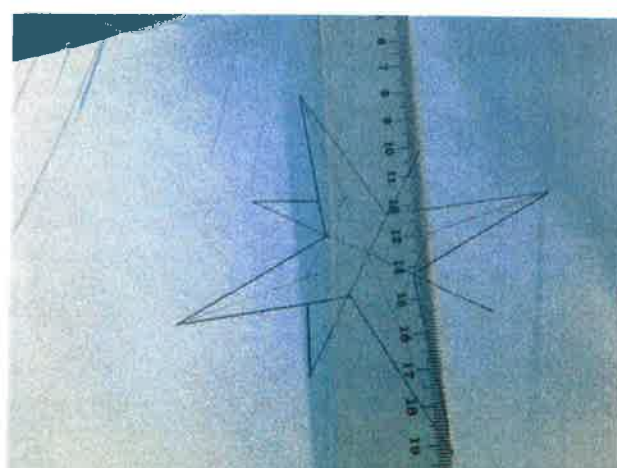
3. Make a perfect square using the ruler- measure 2 centimeters from the middle.



4. Measure the exact middle of each side of the square and mark it. Draw a straight line through the marks using the ruler. Each line should be about 4 centimeters from the middle.



5. Next, make the big star. Use the ruler and make a straight line from the tip of the star to the middle of the square.



6. Now, the little star "behind" the big star. Make a straight line form the tip of the star to the corner of the square.



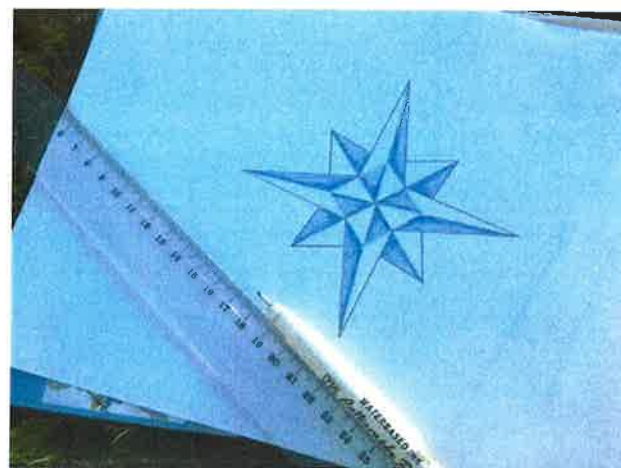
7. A very straight and nice compass rose, maybe some color???



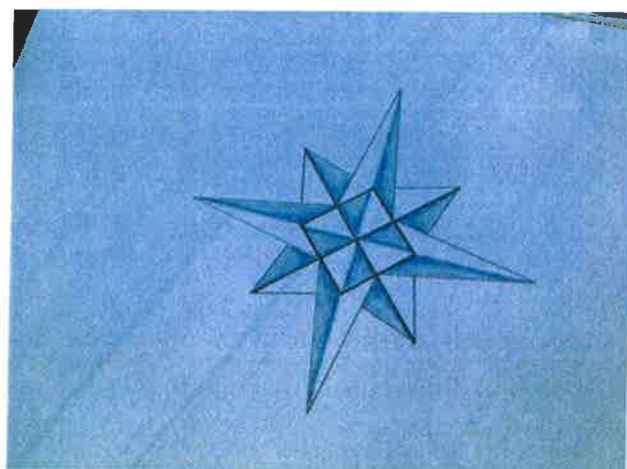
8. Markers are okay, but color pencils are best.



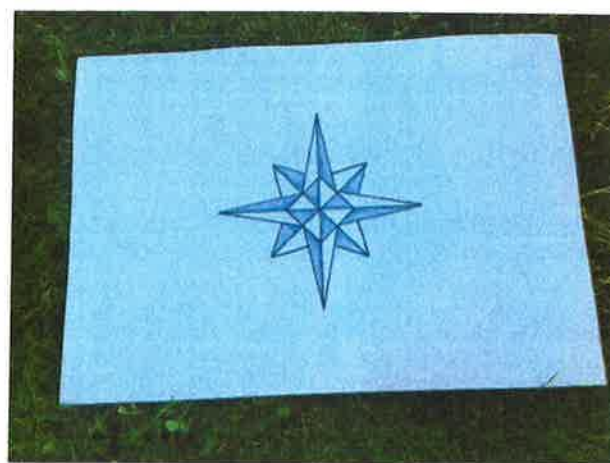
9. Press the pencil harder in the middle and then soften it up as you get to the edge of the star. This creates the illusion of depth, make it more vivid.



10. Continue the procedure in every other part of the star.



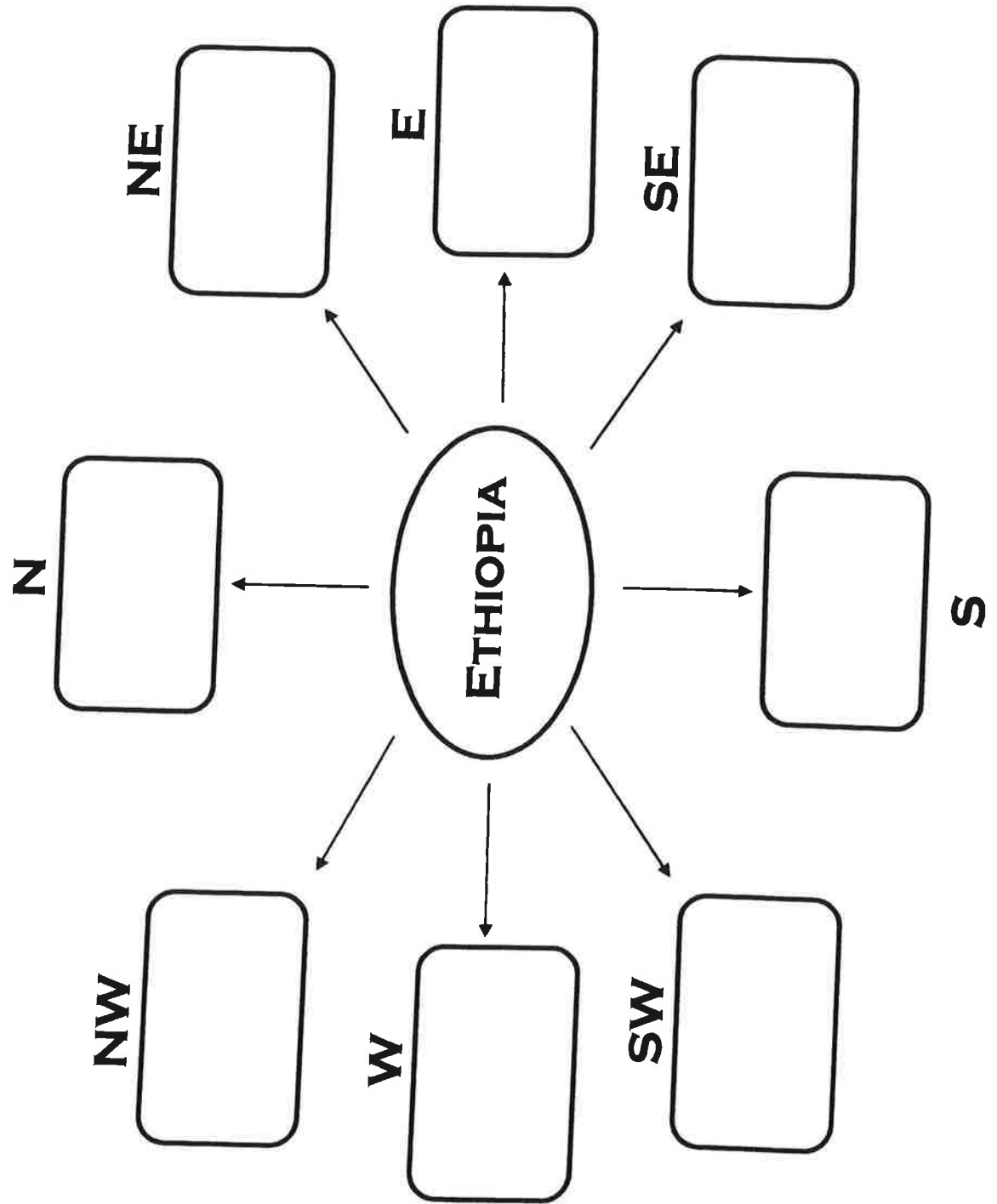
11. Last step, use a narrow black pen. Use a ruler to make line as straight as possible. Be careful not to smudge the black lines with your fingers.



12. Now, add N, NE, NW, W, E, S, SE and SW.

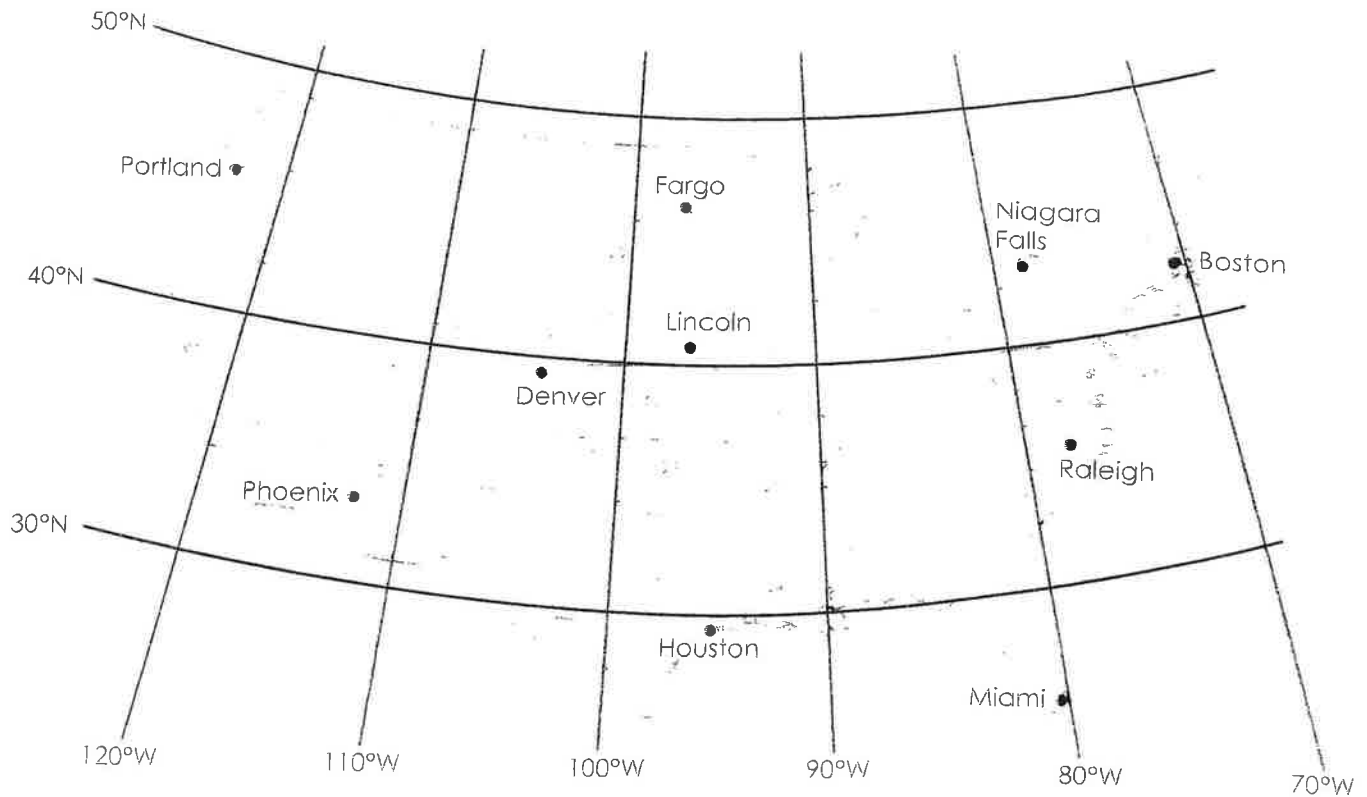
Compass Rose Map: Ethiopia

For each direction on the compass rose, list geographical features that are located that direction from Ethiopia.



Name: _____

Latitude and Longitude



Write the name of the city and state found at the given latitude and longitude coordinates.

1. 33°N latitude, 112°W longitude _____

2. 35°N latitude, 78°W longitude _____

3. 46°N latitude, 96°W longitude _____

4. 45°N latitude, 122°W longitude _____

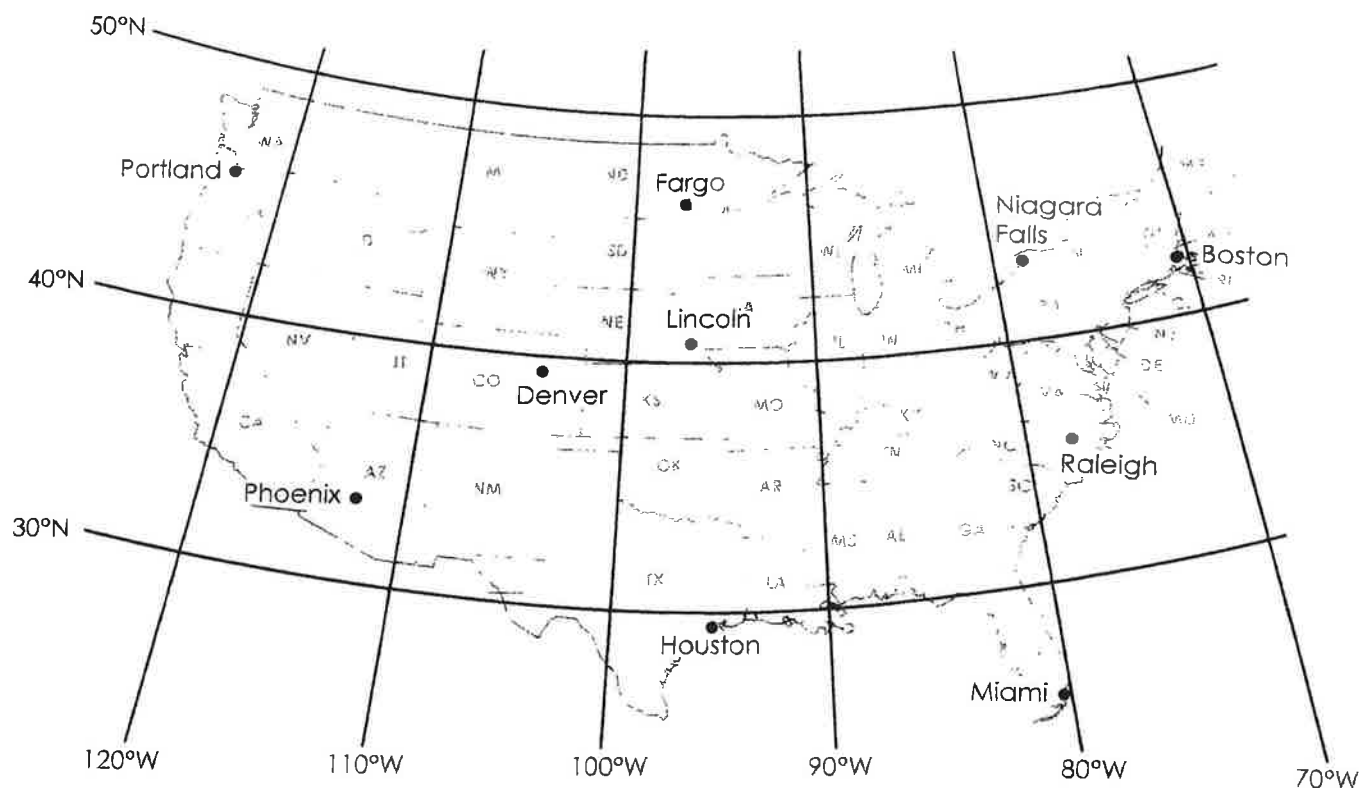
5. 29°N latitude, 95°W longitude _____

6. 43°N latitude, 79°W longitude _____

7. 25°N latitude, 80°W longitude _____

ANSWER KEY

Latitude and Longitude



Write the name of the city and state found at the given latitude and longitude coordinates.

1. 33°N latitude, 112°W longitude Phoenix, Arizona

2. 35°N latitude, 78°W longitude Raleigh, North Carolina

3. 46°N latitude, 96°W longitude Fargo, North Dakota

4. 45°N latitude, 122°W longitude Portland, Oregon

5. 29°N latitude, 95°W longitude Houston, Texas

6. 43°N latitude, 79°W longitude Niagara Falls, New York

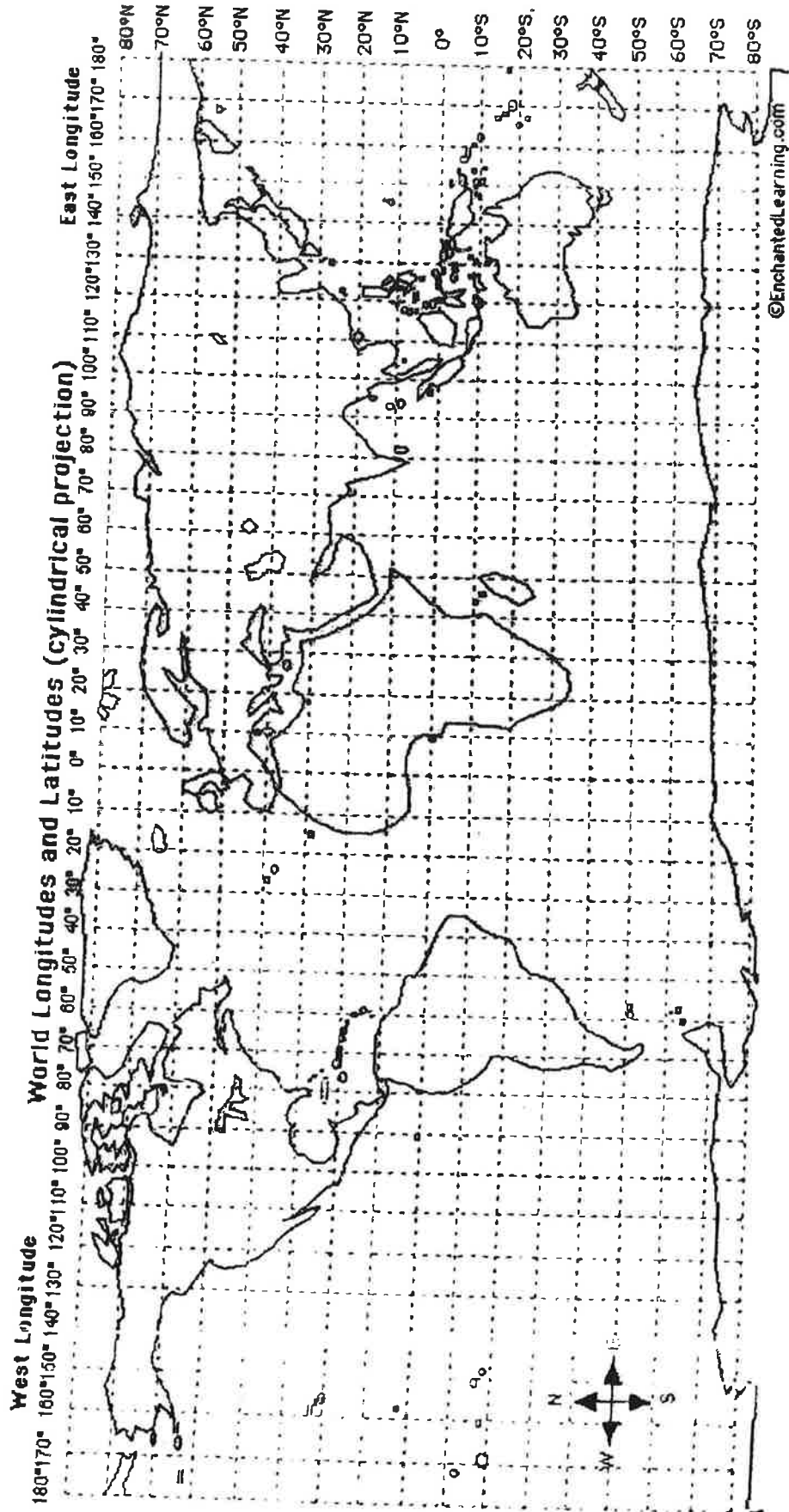
7. 25°N latitude, 80°W longitude Miami, Florida

World Latitude and Longitude Activity

NAME _____

Using the world longitude and latitude map printout, answer the following questions and mark the locations.

1. Draw a red line along the equator (0 degrees latitude).
2. Draw a purple line along the Prime Meridian (0 degrees longitude).
3. In which ocean is the location 10 degrees S latitude, 75 degrees E longitude located? Mark it on the map with a blue "X" and write the name of the ocean.
4. In which ocean is the location 30 degrees N latitude, 60 degrees W longitude located? Mark it on the map with a blue "Y" and write the name of the ocean.
5. Mark the following cities on the map in red:
 - B. Beijing: 40°N, 116°E
 - C. Cairo: 30°N, 31°E
 - CT. Cape Town: 34°S, 18°E
 - H. Hong Kong: 22°N, 114°E
 - J. Jakarta: 6°S, 106°E
 - LA. Los Angeles: 34°N, 118°W
 - LI. Lima: 12°S, 77°W
 - LO. London: 51°N, 0°W
 - MC. Mexico City: 19°N, 99°W
 - MO. Moscow: 55°N, 37°E
 - MU. Mumbai: 19°N, 72°E
 - NA. Nairobi: 1°S, 37°E
 - NO. New Orleans: 30°N, 90°W
 - NY. New York: 40°N, 74°W
 - R. Rio de Janeiro: 23°S, 43°W
 - SE. Seattle: 47°N, 122°W
 - SY. Sydney: 34°S, 151°E
 - TK. Tokyo: 35°N, 139°E
 - T. Toronto: 43°N, 79°W



Getting Geographic

Understanding Time Zones

Grade: 4th through 8th

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Atlas or internet access

Is it really tomorrow in Tokyo? Understanding time zones is an important, but challenging concept for many students.

The need for standard time zones emerged with the spread of high speed transportation systems – first trains and later airplanes. In 1884, delegates from twenty seven countries met in Washington, DC at the Meridian Conference and agreed on a system of time zones that is essentially the one we still use today.

Time zones are based on the fact that Earth moves through 15 degrees of longitude each hour. Therefore, there are 24 standard time zones (24 hours x 15°=360°). Time zones are counted from the Prime Meridian (0° longitude), which runs through Greenwich, England. Each time zone is based on a central meridian, counted at 15° intervals from the Prime Meridian, and extends 7½° to either side of the central meridian. For example, New York City lies in the zone of the 75°W central meridian, and the time zone includes all locations between 67½°W and 82½°W.

Constructing a Time Zone Model

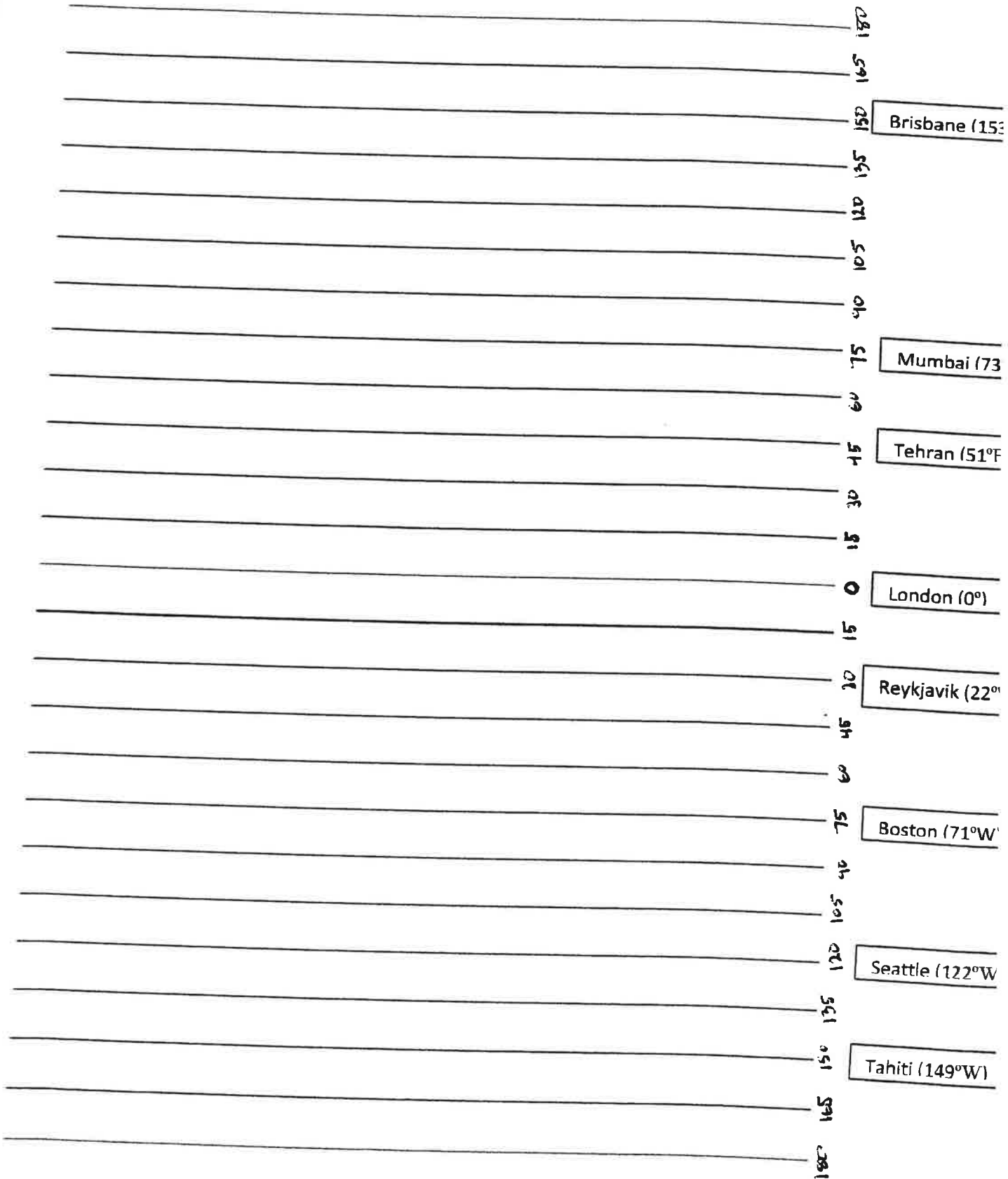
Distribute copies of the Activity #10 Handout to each student and instruct, as follows:

- a) Turn the paper sideways so that the “holes” are at the top.
- b) Use a colored pencil to trace over the line at the center of the paper and label this line “Prime Meridian.”
- c) Label the lines to the right (East) at 15° intervals up to 180°. Repeat to the left (West). Point out that each line represents one hour. Students should count hours plus to the east and minus to the west on their charts.
- d) Use an atlas to determine the longitude of Stockton, CA and have students place a dot in the correct time zone on the chart.
- e) Use an atlas to determine the longitude of Nairobi Kenya, Rome Italy, San Juan Puerto Rico and Tokyo Japan and have students place a dot in the correct time zone on the chart.
- e) Use the chart (i.e., count the lines) to determine the time in each location labeled on the chart. Remind students that the new day begins when they pass midnight.
- f) If it is 2pm on Monday in Stockton, CA what time will it be in Tokyo Japan? (7am Tuesday in Tokyo) So it really is tomorrow in Tokyo!

Extending the Activity

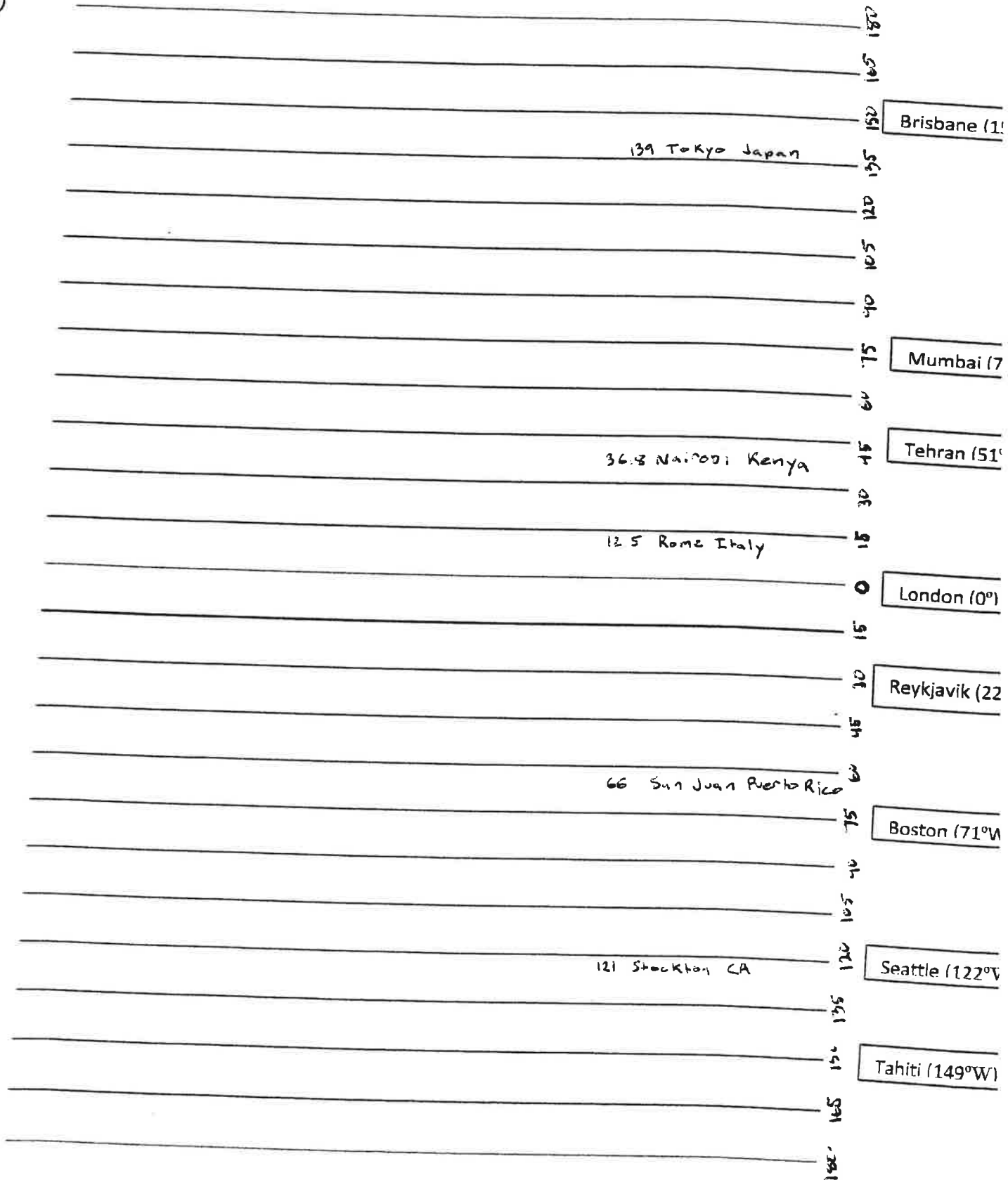
- a) Explain that some countries adjust time zones for political reasons. Have students research actual time zones that vary from the model they have made (e.g., Australia, China, India, Liberia).
- b) Have students research “daylight saving time.”

Activity #10-HANDC



Key

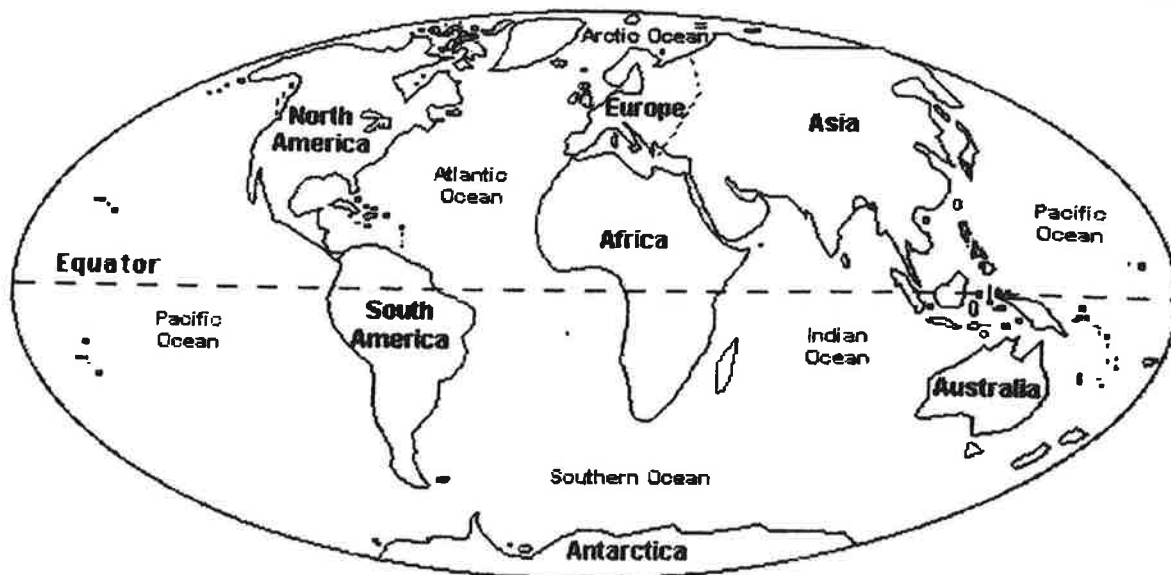
Activity #10-HAND



Continents

Follow the instructions below.

Name _____



1. Color the continent of Africa green.
2. Color the continent of Antarctica white.
3. Color the continent of Asia yellow.
4. Color the continent of Europe red.
5. Color the continent of Australia brown.
6. Color the continent of North America orange.
7. Color the continent of South America pink.
8. How many continents are there? _____
9. Color the equator (a line) black.
10. Color the oceans blue.
11. I live on the continent of _____

Label the Continents

Work with a partner

Read the definitions, and then label the map

☐ **Africa**

A continent that crosses the equator. It is south of Europe and is bordered by the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

☐ **Antarctica**

The continent that surrounds the South Pole of the Earth.

☐ **Asia**

A continent in the Northern Hemisphere. Asia is attached to Europe (and east of it).

☐ **Australia**

A continent, an island, and a country in the Southern Hemisphere.

☐ **Equator**

An imaginary line that divides the Earth into Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

☐ **Europe**

A continent in the Northern Hemisphere. Europe is attached to Asia (and west of it).

☐ **North America**

A continent in the Northern Hemisphere; it is north of South America. It is bordered by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

☐ **North Pole**

The point that is the farthest north on Earth.

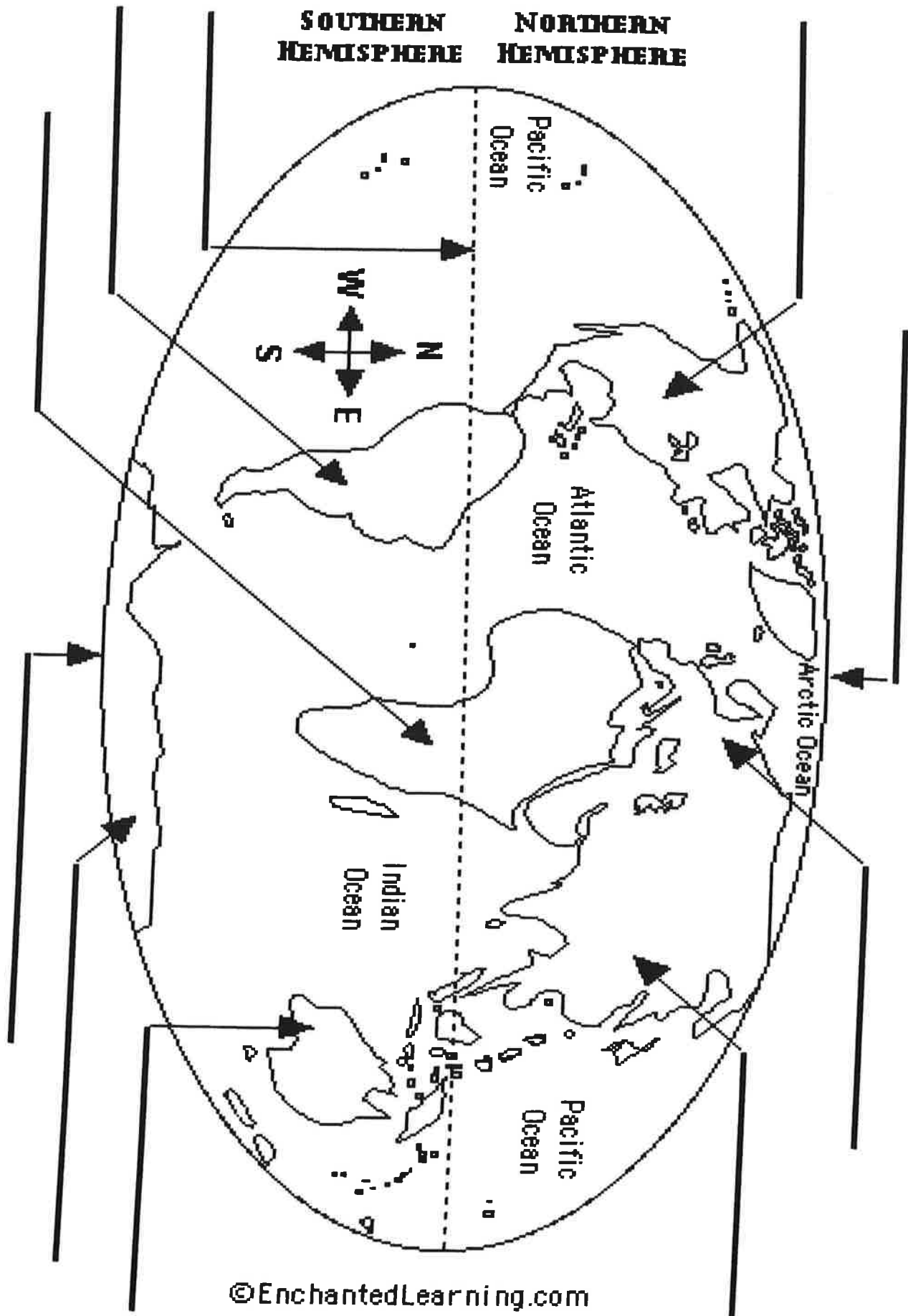
☐ **South America**

A continent that is mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. It is bordered by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

☐ **South Pole**

The point that is the farthest south on Earth

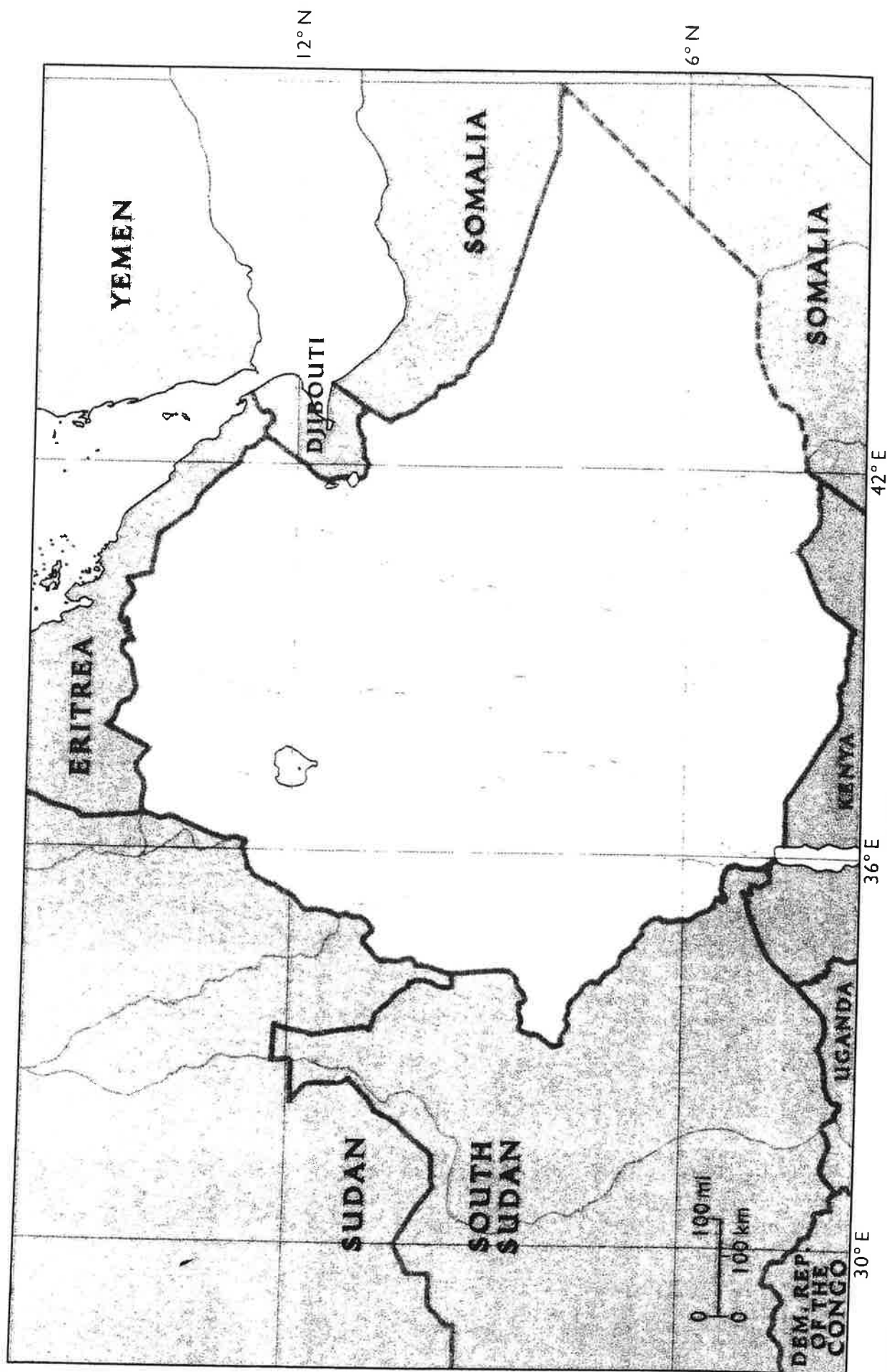
Where are Italy, Japan, Kenya and Puerto Rico located? On the map, write an "I" for Italy, "J" for Japan and "K" for Kenya, and a "P" for Puerto Rico.





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ETHIOPIA



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

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ETHIOPIA

Locate the following places on the map: Addis Ababa, Aksum, Awash River, Bahir Dar, Dawa River, Gonder, Omo River, Ras Dejen, Tekeze River, Wabe Gestro, and Wabe Shebele

The Earth has many different environments, varying in temperature, moisture, light, and many other factors. Each of these habitats has distinct life forms living in it, forming complex communities of interdependent organisms. A complex community of plants and animals in a region and a climate is called a **biome**.

Tundra

LOCATION: The tundra biome is the coldest of all biomes. It is also quite big. The tundra covers about one fifth of the land on earth. The word tundra comes from a Finnish word that means treeless plain, which is a good description of the biome. Tundra biome is located in the arctic circle, which is a circle that surrounds the north pole, but this is not the only place we can find freezing cold temperatures and a few animals. In Antarctica, and other cold environments, there are areas that can be described as part of a tundra biome as well.

WEATHER: The tundra is the coldest and the driest of all the biomes on Earth. There is very little rainfall in the tundra; it rains less than ten inches a year. Winters here are long, and summers short, sometimes they last for only 6 - 10 weeks. In the winter the temperature can reach -50°F (-45.5°C). And we think our winters are bad! Because the tundra is so close to the north pole, summer days are 24 hours long! Summer temperatures rarely get above 50°F (10°C), just enough to thaw the surface of the ground. What a place for a summer vacation! In the summer the soil becomes very soggy from melted snow and rain. The moisture sinks into the ground, which is called permafrost. The permafrost lies six inches below the ground, and is frozen for most of the year. The top layer of the permafrost thaws, but the bottom layer of gravel and finer material stays frozen all year which keeps moisture from rain on the surface of the ground.



Charles Webber © California Academy of Sciences

PLANTS: You would think that plants would never live or survive in this biome, but the answer is quite a surprise. There is low diversity in organisms that live here, but many still flourish. Many lichens, mosses, and small shrubs flourish in the arctic tundra. The plants that live in the harsh permafrost soil usually adapt to the weather by being short and grouped together to resist winds and to be protected. The growing season in the tundra is short and lasts up to 60 days. Tundra plants get their energy from the sun through photosynthesis like all other plants, but have adapted to low temperatures and low light intensities. Compared to plants in other biomes they use a minimal amount of energy.

ANIMALS: You may think that the tundra is too chilly for animals, but guess what - it's not. There are actually animals that live in this harsh biome! You might find lemmings, caribou, and arctic hares in the tundra. These animals seem pretty nice, but can you guess which the largest and most dangerous animal is that lives in the tundra? THE POLAR BEAR. Polar bears love to eat fresh, fatty meat. Fatty foods might not be good for humans, but polar bears need the energy from fat to survive the cold tundra. Seals, at times walrus, and sometimes even belugas trapped in open water pockets surrounded by ice are some of the polar bear's favorite meals. They will also eat berries and eggs in the summer. Polar bears hunt by the power of scent and can smell their food at 20 miles (32 km) away. The stomach of an adult polar bear is so big



Dr. Lloyd Glenn Ingles © California Academy of Sciences

that it can hold more than 150 pounds (68 kilos) of food! Other predators of the tundra are arctic foxes⁵⁻²⁸ and wolves. Some migratory birds also live in the tundra during part of the year.

Animals who live in the tundra have special adaptations to survive. Some animals in the tundra are adapted to the climate by breeding and raising their young in the summer. Many animals hibernate, or sleep during the worst part of winter to minimize energy loss. Because animals of the tundra are generally migratory, this biome's population is constantly changing. Resident animals have to change what they are hunting and eating as the seasons change. The food chain in the Arctic Tundra consists of predators such as owls, foxes, wolves, and polar bears at the top of the chain. Predators hunt herbivores, plant eating animals, such as caribou, lemmings, and hares. Mosquitoes, flies, moths, grasshoppers, arctic bumblebees, and other insects are at the bottom of the arctic food chain. Many birds feed on these insects.

Rainforest

LOCATION: There are two types of rainforest biomes: temperate and tropical rainforests. Temperate rainforests are found along coasts in temperate regions. The largest temperate rainforests are on the Pacific coast in North America, stretching from Alaska to Oregon. Other temperate rainforests are found along the coast of Chile, the United Kingdom, Norway, Japan, New Zealand, and S. Australia. Tropical rainforests are generally found between 30°N and 30°S latitudes, covering 6 - 7% of the Earth's land surface. Tropical rainforests can be found around the world: in Central and South America; in Western Africa, eastern Madagascar, and the Zaire basin; and in Indo-Malaysia along the west coast of India, Assam, Southeast Asia, New Guinea, and Queensland, Australia.

WEATHER: Rainforests are important because they help maintain global weather patterns and rain. Water that evaporates from trees falls in other areas as rain.

Tropical rainforests are lush and warm all year long! Temperatures don't even change much between night and day. The average temperature in tropical rainforests ranges from 70 to 85°F (21 to 30°C). The environment is pretty wet in tropical rainforests, maintaining a high humidity of 77% to 88% year-round. The yearly rainfall ranges from 80 to 400 inches (200 to 1000 cm), and it can rain hard. It can downpour as much as 2 inches (5 cm) in an hour!

Temperate rainforests are also wet, but not as rainy as tropical rainforests. It rains about from 60 - 200 inches (150 - 500 cm) each year, while the other moisture comes from the coastal fog that lingers on the trees. The fog provides about 7 - 12 inches (18 - 30°C) of rain each year. Temperate rainforests are a lot cooler than tropical rainforests, but the temperatures are still mild. They often have two distinct seasons: one long wet winter, and a short drier summer.

PLANTS: One type of plant often found in a rainforest is an epiphyte. Epiphytes are plants that live on the surface of other plants, especially the trunks and branches. They often grow on trees to take advantage of sunlight in the canopy. In temperate rainforests common epiphytes are mosses and ferns, while in tropical rainforests there are many kinds of epiphytes, including orchids and bromeliads. There are more than 20,000 varieties of orchids found in the rainforest.

There are about 10 - 20 species of trees in temperate rainforests that are mostly coniferous, meaning they have needles. Trees in temperate rainforests can live much longer than humans, some live for up to 1000 years! Tropical rainforests have a bigger variety of trees, hundreds of species in fact! These trees are mostly broadleaf trees and have a shorter lifespan. They usually live for 50 - 100 years.



Most trees in tropical rainforests have thin, smooth bark. They don't need thick bark to keep them from drying out

because the rainforest is so wet. Also, smooth bark makes it difficult for other plants, such as epiphytes,⁵⁻²⁹ to grow on the tree surface. Trees often have buttresses, large branching ridges near the base, for support because their roots are often shallow and they grow tall to reach the sunlight. Prop roots also help support trees in shallow soils. Many plants in the rainforests have adapted leaf shapes that help water drip off the plant to avoid too much moisture, which might make bacteria and fungus grow.

Tropical rainforests are so big that they are divided into four zones. The top layer of the rainforest is called the emergent layer. Giant trees grow here that are much taller than the trees below. The next layer is the canopy. It contains trees standing 60 to 150 feet (18 to 45 meters) tall. Their branches form a canopy, like a big beach umbrella that shades the forest floor. Thick, woody vines are found in the canopy. Over 2,500 species of vines grow in the rainforest. Some vines, called lianas, are sometimes as big around as a person! They climb the trees in the canopy to reach for sunlight. The next layer, the understory, is a dark, cool area below the canopy, but above the ground. The understory is shaded from much of the sunlight by the canopy. The forest floor is the bottom layer of the rainforest. This is the area where fallen, decomposing plants and trees lay on the ground. Many insects live here. Temperate rainforests have all of these zones except the emergent layer. The tallest trees in the temperate rainforest canopy grow to be about 300 feet (90 meters) tall.

ANIMALS: Tropical rainforests are home to half the plant and animal species on Earth. Scientists believe that there is such a great diversity of animals in tropical rainforests because they are one of the oldest ecosystems on earth. Some forests in Southeast Asia have been around for at least 100 million years, ever since dinosaurs roamed the earth. Animals in the tropical rainforest are specially adapted to live in this unique environment. A common characteristic found among mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, is an adaptation to living in trees. One example is New World monkeys that have prehensile tails that curl around branches allowing the monkey to hold onto the tree with its tail! Other animals are brightly colored, sharply patterned, have loud vocalizations, and like to eat lots of fruit. Most of the animals in the tropical rainforest live in the canopy. There is so much food available up there that some animals never go down to explore the forest floor! Birds are important to rainforests because they like to eat seeds and fruit. Their droppings grow into new plants and help rainforests to survive. In turn, tropical rainforests are important to birds because they provide winter grounds as migratory destination. Parrots are not the only type of birds you will see in the rainforest. In fact, about 27% of the bird species in the world live in tropical rainforests. Insects make up the largest single group of animals that live in tropical forests. They include bright beautiful butterflies, menacing mosquitoes, camouflaged stick insects, and colossal colonies of ants.



In temperate rainforests you'll find a different set of amazing animals. Most of these animals live on, or near the forest floor where they are protected from the wind and rain by the trees above. Many birds and small mammals, such as chipmunks, like to eat seeds that fall on the forest floor. Lots of insects live in the temperate rainforest. Most of them live in tree bark, decomposing dead plant matter, or mossy areas. Birds and amphibians like to eat these insects. Some mammals in the temperate rainforest include deer and bobcats. Cougars and bobcats are the top predators in this biome.

Savana

LOCATION: Savannas are comprised mostly of grasses and a few scattered trees. They cover half the surface of Africa, large areas of Australia, South America, and India. That is a lot of the earth's surface! Savannas can result from climate changes, soil conditions, animal behavior, or agricultural practices. Humans create savannas by burning grasslands and cutting down trees so they can plant crops. Large

animals, like elephants, can turn a forest into a savanna by knocking trees down, stripping the bark from the trees, and tramping on tree seedlings.

WEATHER: An important factor in the savanna is climate. The climate is usually warm and temperatures range from 68° to 86°F (20 to 30°C). Savannas exist in areas where there is a 6 - 8 month wet summer season, and a 4 - 6 month dry winter season. The annual rainfall is from 10 - 30 inches (25 - 75 cm) per year. During the dry season, lightning often strikes the ground, igniting the dry grasses that cover the savanna.



PLANTS: The savanna is dominated by grasses such as Rhodes grass, red oats grass, star grass, lemon grass, and some shrubs. Most savanna grass is coarse and grows in patches with interspersed areas of bare ground. You won't see many trees in the savanna because of little rainfall. Occasionally, you'll find individual trees or small groves of trees. These mostly live near streams and ponds. The Acacia tree is an interesting plant in the savanna. It has an umbrella shape, with branches and leaves high off the ground that giraffes like to eat. Baobab trees also live in the savanna. They deal with dry conditions by storing water between the bark and meat of the tree.

ANIMALS: There are many different types of animals that live in the savanna. The species found in savannas vary by the geographic location of the biome. Animals native to African savannas include African elephants, zebras, horses, and giraffes. Many animals in the savanna are herbivores, which means they eat plants, and there is plenty of grass in the savanna. During the rainy months animals thrive in the savanna, but the rainy season is only half the year. During the dry season, surface water from the rain is quickly absorbed into the ground by thirsty soils.

The competition for water during the dry season is so intense that most birds and many of the large mammals migrate elsewhere in search of water. Depending on the severity of the drought, the migration may be to a place nearby, or far away. The dry season is often associated with fires. Many insects with short life spans die in these fires, but the birds and larger animals are usually able to fly or run to safety. Although small burrowing animals probably can't outrun the flames, they often survive the fire by digging deep into the ground and remaining there until the flames are gone. Some birds, such as the Fork-tailed Drongos, don't flee the fires; they actually fly to the fires. For these birds fire means dinner. They eat the fleeing or flame-roasted insects.

TAIGA

LOCATION: Taiga, also known as coniferous or boreal forest, is the largest terrestrial biome on earth. It extends in a broad band across North America, Europe, and Asia to the southern border of the arctic tundra. It is also found at cool, high elevations in the more temperate latitudes, for example, in much of the mountainous western region of North America. Much of the taiga in North America was once covered with glaciers. As the glaciers receded, cuts and depressions were left in the landscape that have since filled with rain creating lakes and bogs.



WEATHER: Long, cold winters, and short, mild, wet summers are typical of this region. In the winter, chilly winds from the arctic cause bitterly cold weather in the taiga. The length of day also varies with the seasons. Winter days are short, while summer days are long because of the tilt of the earth on its axis. Fire is not uncommon in the taiga during the summer. Fires may seem destructive, but they actually help this biome by removing old sick trees, making room for new growth. Precipitation is relatively high in the taiga and